



COBBLESTONE  
MUSEUM

*The Cobblestone Society & Museum*  
*Tour of Cobblestone Homes*

Saturday, September 28, 2019

11am-4pm

*Come Experience the Heart of Cobblestone Country!*

**Cobblestone Tour Sites**  
**(See Map in Centerfold)**

**A. Ward House (1840s)-Exterior & Interior**  
14393 Ridge Road West, Childs  
Owner: The Cobblestone Museum

**B. Lake/Hurd House (1846)-Exterior**  
3505 Butts Rd, Albion  
Owner: Patricia & Peter Hurd

**C. Arthur Barnes Art Studio (1841)-Exterior & Interior**  
12387 Maple Ridge Rd, Medina  
Owner: Arthur Barnes

**D. Stewart/Ciechanowicz House (1830s)-Exterior & Interior**  
12387 Ridge Rd, Medina  
Owner: Margaret Ciechanowicz

**E. Cobblehurst (c.1836)-Exterior & Interior**  
8856 Ridge Rd, Gasport  
Owner: Victor Monter

**F. Hartland Schoolhouse #10 (1845)-Exterior & Interior**  
9713 Seaman & Carmen Road, Gasport  
Owner: Hartland Historical Society

**G. Babcock House Museum (1848)-Exterior & Interior**  
7449 Lower Lake Rd, Barker  
Owner: Town of Somerset

**H. Morgan Johnson/Schwarzmueller House (1844-45)-Exterior**  
2533 Wilson Cambria Rd, Wilson  
Owner: Anton & Arlene Schwarzmueller

**I. Morse/Gallaher House (1845)-Exterior**  
2773 Maple Road, Wilson  
Owner: Francis Gallaher

**J. Wilson House Restaurant/Luther Wilson (1844)-Exterior & Interior**  
300 Lake Road, Wilson  
Owner: Mike & Loretta White and Sons

## A. Ward House (1840s)

14393 Ridge Road West,  
Childs

Owner: Cobblestone So-  
ciety

No written records sur-  
vive regarding the Ward  
House; however it is be-  
lieved to have been con-  
structed around 1836 under the direction of John Proctor. What  
is known is that the property remained under Proctor's ownership  
until 1861 and was likely intended to serve as a parsonage for  
the church.



The house was constructed in the Federal style with a hip roof, which is rare for Western New York. The raised basement level gives the impression of a split-level bottom floor. The original house was an 18' x 24' structure built of fieldstones set in the Gaines Pattern; the quoins were cut from local sandstone. An extension was added to the north side of the house around 1930. The front door is in the Italianate style with cut glass windows, perhaps added in the 1880s. The interior is decorated to reflect the 1880s.

Following John Proctor's ownership, the house was sold to Ben-  
jamin and Mary Ann Woodburn Dwinnell. Mary Ann was the aunt  
of New York Tribune editor Horace Greeley, who held the mort-  
gage until 1863. The home functioned as a private residence un-  
til 1975, when the property was purchased by the museum from  
Mrs. Inez Martyn Ward.

## B. Lake/Hurd House (1846) - Exterior

3505 Butts Road, Albion

Owner: Patricia & Peter Hurd

Nathaniel Lake had this house built in 1846, and for many years was given the name of "Lake Manse."

Lake-smooth cobbles face the walls. At the side, the visitor can see the herringbone pattern which is confined to the lower part of the wall between grade and the first floor. Notice the careful, delicate tooling of the mortar joints above on which the unknown mason used a beading trowel to get the carefully rounded edges on the projections.

A wooden porch of Italianate styling with typical brackets fronts the north wing and offers a pleasant contrast to the more sober original Greek Revival details. A modern glass porch on the south side of the rear wing offers a pleasant protected area.



## C. Arthur Barnes Art Studio (1841) Exterior & Interior

12387 Maple Ridge Rd, Medina

Owner: Arthur Barnes

This art studio is a cobble-stone building that was built in 1841 as a Quaker Meeting house. In 1896 the Meeting House was converted to a general store and post office, which continued until 1979 when the property was abandoned. When Arthur Barnes acquired the old Meeting House, his goal



was to transform it to become a meeting house for artists and others.

Mr. Barnes states, "I shut the studio down in the winter but it's open in the summer. I do much of my art out in the field or on the road. The cobblestone is more conducive as a performance venue. I do not create art with the purpose of making money, although I do not rule it out. The purpose of art to me is to make a life not a living. I share my art and the creative process through my blog entitled *theartistmonk.com*. If someone is so inclined they may purchase reproductions of my art through my online gallery that can be found on my website at *arthurbarnes.com*."

#### D. Stewart/Ciechanowicz House (1830s)-Exterior & Interior

12387 Ridge Rd, Medina

Owner: Margaret Ciechanowicz

Wilber and Betsey Stewart came to Orleans County in 1831 from Connecticut.

Their cobblestone house was built in the late 1830s as a Greek Revival, cottage

style house. The stone work was accomplished with rounded fieldstones of various shapes and colors. The horizontal joints are V'd and the vertical joints are pyramidal in shape. The quoins and lintels are sandstone, while the sills are wood. There is a one-story wing which extends to the west, faced with water-rounded smaller stones.



The appearance of the house was altered by raising the roof and creating a two-story, center-entrance building. This modification probably occurred in the late 1860s. The roof line exterior wood-work is Italianate in style, added with these alterations.

John Amos purchased the home in 1864. His descendants lived

in the home for 100 years. Following the Amos era, Sheri Egeli owned the home and made many interior restorations.

The current owner, Margaret Ciechanowicz made recent repairs to her cobblestone home.

#### **E. Cobblehurst/Monter House (circa 1836)-Ext. & Interior**

8856 Ridge Rd, Gasport

Owner: Victor Monter

This building came into being about 1836 as a Friends Meeting House. The outside walls are faced with large field cobbles of varying sizes, shapes and colors. The corner quoins are of gray sandstone. It was originally a simple building in the true Quaker tradition, and to the west may be seen the old Friends Cemetery.



After The Great War, the house was acquired by Emma Reed, who later gifted another architectural treasure, the Tousley-Church House in Albion, to the Daughters of the American Revolution.

When Emma Reed first purchased the Church she toured Europe to obtain ideas on how to design the Estate. The fireplace tools and the andirons in the fireplace came from a 15th century castle in Scotland. She had the second story built with the dormers, had a cellar hand dug, added the swimming pool, the gardens walls and driveway. In the early 1920s the house was a tourist home for the ultra wealthy and elite and was called "Cobblehurst on the Ridge"

Victor Monter, the current owner, saved and restored a structure that was vacant for many years and in serious disrepair. He and his family reside here and also operate an Airbnb.

## **F. District #10 Cobblestone Schoolhouse (1845)—Exterior & Interior**

9713 Seaman & Carmen Rd, Gasport

Owner: Hartland Historical Society

District #10 Schoolhouse is a historic one-room school located at Hartland in Niagara County, New York. It is a one-story cobblestone structure built about 1845 in the Greek Revival style. It features smooth, slightly irregularly shaped, variously colored cobbles in its construction. It operated as a school until 1947 when it was converted into a private residence. It was recently acquired by the Hartland Historical Society. It is one of approximately 47 cobblestone structures in Niagara County.



## **G. Babcock House Museum (1848)—Exterior & Interior**

7449 Lake Road, Barker

Owner: Town of Somerset Historical Society

The beautiful cobblestone Greek Revival Babcock House Museum was built in 1848 by Jeptha Babcock near the shores of Lake Ontario. He was a farmer, first postmaster in the town, Supervisor of the Town of Somerset and a New York State Assemblyman.



A succession of owners eventually led to New York State Electric and Gas acquiring the property in 1982 as part of its new 625 megawatt electric generating plant. An agreement was signed in 1987, allowing the Town of Somerset Historical Soci-



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ety to operate the Babcock House Museum and Visitors Center.

The cobblestone masonry, using water washed stone from Lake Ontario, is typical to this area of New York, with most of these homes being erected prior to the Civil War. Step over the threshold and enter a world gone by. The brick beehive oven and fireplace are focal points as you stroll through. It is completely furnished with vintage antiques, china, light fixtures, and pump organ. It is as if the original owner, farmer Jeptha Babcock, is just outside in the impressive barn tending to his animals. One of the largest barns in Niagara County, you can tour the old machinery inside and view the soaring architecture. Square dances, storytelling and old fashioned pot luck meals are held inside several times per year by the Somerset Historical Society.

#### **H. Morgan Johnson/Schwarzmueller House (1844-45)-Exterior**

2533 Cambria Wilson Rd  
(NYS Rt 425), Wilson

Owner: Anton & Arlene  
Schwarzmueller

This majestic house, built for Captain Morgan Johnson about 1844-45, is probably



the most elaborate of Niagara County's cobblestone homes. He was captain of the ship "Milly Cook," which caught fire and burned in Wilson Harbor. The area is still known today as Milly Cook Cove.

The cobblestone house is constructed with small water-washed stones with a very interesting herringbone design. Note the flat, water-washed stones below the limestone water table. Also observe unique belly windows with grill facings and two stone columns at the front door. It is also known by some as the "Anchor

House," because of the 500 pound anchor on the front lawn. The anchor was lost from the Schooner Franklin Pierce during a storm in 1840 and found near the Wilson pier around 1897.

The home's current owners, Anton & Arlene Schwarzmueller, purchased the home in 2001. The house had fallen into disrepair for several years before this and was even foreclosed at one point in its history. The Schwarzmuellers saw the house for its potential and looked past the numerous "blue tarps" used to protect some damaged areas in hope of stopping further degradation.

Anton shares these reflections: "Let's take a turn looking at each side of the house, beginning with the front. Many of the window sashes are original, including these four. When we moved in, they were covered with opaque plastic as an insulating measure. The wooden storms I found stacked in the barn or basement; I don't recall which. All the panes were cracked. The wood had no paint and was covered with staples and remnants of plastic. It took me all season to repair and install them."

The upper windows are pocket-style set at eye level, though they may appear to be belly windows. The decorative iron grates sit in a slot and are held fast by simple turns. I removed these once and repainted them. Never again. They are terribly heavy. Behind the grates, screening was nailed into the frames, which I removed in order to paint the windows. While pulling out the screens and nails I discovered both were copper! I measured, ordered, and installed storm windows. Towards the right a patch of stones barely protrudes from an old repair area. Stones are six courses to each quoin on the front, one less on the sides of the house, and less still at the back, including a short section of flagstone. We were told that this is known as a 'Queen Anne front and Betty Jane behind'."

## I. Morse/Gallagher House (1845) - Exterior

2773 Maple Road, Wilson

Owner: Francis Gallagher

Built circa 1840, this home is a well preserved example of middle-period cobblestone construction. The style, like so many, is Greek Revival with a couple of interesting features. There are a number of "belly" or eyebrow windows on the west and south sides of the home. The large stone lintels above the windows have a "Holland hat" look which is English Gothic. They were made in Lockport and delivered to the building site for \$10 each. The water table around the home is massive and made of cut limestone. The large porch was not part of the original design but rather added at the turn of the century.



Original owner James Morse was born in New York City, January 17th, 1817, the youngest of eleven children. His father was a native of England who came to New York as a young man. Right after James was born his father went on a sea voyage for his health and was never heard from again. His mother moved around the state presumably with the children living in Washington, Oneida and Orleans counties. She died in Batavia in 1837. In 1840, Morse came to Wilson and purchased 50 acres on Slash Road (now Maple). Soon after, he purchased an additional 50 acres. In 1854, he married Sarah, sometimes written as Sabra Luce, from Rushford, New York. They had three children. There is some evidence that James Morse was in some manner an indentured servant in his early years. Research from The New York State Office of Historic Preservation mentions that James Morse's "early life was one of "hardships, privation and cruelty." He was forced to "labor beyond his strength and suffered much unkind treatment. But hope and courage never left him. Release came when he became his own master." All indications are that Morse lived a simple life as a farmer never holding political office or any other appointed posi-

tions in the community. He died in 1909 at the age of 92.

Shortly after moving into the home, the current owners applied for State and National Register status. This was granted in September of 2010.

The most noticeable modern feature of the home is the large solar array on the south side of the home. This was added in September of 2014 and supplies approximately 95% of the home's electrical needs, including hot water. Town of Wilson Historian Francis Gallagher is the current owner.

### **J. Wilson House Restaurant/Luther Wilson (1844)-Exterior & Interior**

300 Lake Street, Wilson

Owners: Mike & Loretta White and Sons

Welcome to the Wilson House Restaurant and Inn in the newly remodeled Luther Wilson family cob-



blestone home, originally built in 1844. It's built on the site of the village's first schoolhouse, which had been erected in 1820. In 1890, the home was the scene for the double funeral of Captain Luther Wilson, 92 years of age, and his son, Reuben F. Wilson, 68 years of age. Both were buried in Greenwood Cemetery.

The two story structure with hip roof and half windows was built with small water-washed stones. Later, it became the Wilsonian Club, a private club for area businessmen, with a bowling alley in the basement and dance hall on the second floor. A large porch was added where musicians played and revelers danced in the street.

Eventually, in 1947, it became a bar restaurant, and has continued to be one, under several different managements. Today,

the owners and hosts are the White Family, Mike, Loretta and sons.

The White family has arranged several menu specials, just for today. Be sure to inquire of your host!

**Thank you for attending today's tour.**

### **Upcoming Events at the Cobblestone Museum**

#### **Cobblestone Ghost Walk—Sat. Oct. 19 (Noon-5pm)**

Visit the historic buildings on our campus where you will “meet” some spirited apparitions from Orleans County’s past. Take part in a Civil War wedding. Luncheon featuring Dubby’s Wood Fired Pizza will be available.

#### **Fall Foliage Bus Trip—Sat. Oct. 12 (9am-4pm)**

A narrated tour of area cobblestone homes will accompany the short drive to “Finger Lakes Country” where we will check out the fantastic fall foliage while riding to the top of Bristol Mountain via ski lift. Enjoy lunch at the top of the mountain.

Holiday Shoppe—Nov. 1, 2 & 3 and Dec. 7 (1-5pm)

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas as we once again turn our gift shop into a Christmas Wonderland of decorations and gifts at incredibly low prices.

East Aurora Experience Bus Trip—Sat. Nov. 2 (9am-5pm)

Join us as we travel to visit historic East Aurora, with a guided tour of the Roycroft Campus, a National Historic Landmark District, made famous for its world-renowned 19th century craftsmanship. The Roycroft Museum is included in your guided tour. Then, dine at the Roycroft Inn with a sumptuous lunch which includes your personal selection from a choice of three delicious entrées and dessert. Following lunch, there will still be plenty of time for downtown shopping at Vidler's and much more. Seating is limited so get your reservation in early. The cost for Cobblestone Museum members is \$60 and \$65 for all others.

Cobblestone Society Annual Meeting—Saturday, Nov. 9 (12-2pm)

The annual business meeting of the Cobblestone Society will be preceded by a luncheon. Location: Tillmans Village Inn

Christmas Tour of Homes—Saturday Dec. 7 (2-7pm)

View some wonderful Christmas displays and open houses on our third annual Christmas Tour of Homes which will feature a self-drive or bus tour option. Mark your calendar today, you won't want to miss this!

THE WILSON HOUSE  
RESTAURANT & INN

